Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 /059 W

-----098069 190418Z /75

R 180931Z FEB 78
FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5698
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

CONFIDENTIAL BAGHDAD 0351

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PEPR, XF, IZ

SUBJECT: IRAQ SHORES UP RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORS

REF: BAGHDAD 306

1. IN APPARENT CONTINUATIONOF TREND NOTED REFTEL, IRAQ HAS PLAYED GRACIOUS HOST TO DELEGATIONS FROM SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN. SAUDI VISITOR, FOREIGN UNDERSECRETARY ABDUL AZIZ AL-THUNAIYAN, WAS RECEIVED FEB 15 BY PRESIDENT BAKR FOR DELIVERY OF WRITTEN MESSAGE FROM KING KHALID "RELATING TO CURRENT SITUATION IN ARAB REGION." ON SAME DAY BAKR ALSO RECEIVED CHIEF OF THE IRAN IAN ARMY GENERAL STAFF, GENERAL GOOLAM REZA AZHARI, FOR DELIVERY OF MESSAGE FROM THE SHAH.

2. COMMENT: GOI HAS MADE CLEAR THAT BAKR IS NOT INTERESTED IN RECEIVING VISITORS JUST BECAUSE THEY CARRY MESSAGES FROMTHEIR CHIEFS OF STATE.IN CONFIDENTIAL

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FACT, SUCH MESSAGES ARE USUALLY CONVEYED TO FOREIGN MINISTER. FACT THAT BAKR RECEIVED SUB-MINISTERIAL LEVEL VISITORS IS MARK OF SPECIAL CONCERN FOR IRAQ'S RELATIONS WITH SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN. AS SUCH, IT IS HEALTHY ANTIDOTE TO IRAQ'S NEAR MANIC PREOCCUPATION WITH ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUE DURING MONTHS FOLLOWING SADAT INITIATIVE.

	Sheryl P. Walter	Declassified/Released	US Department of State	EO Systematic Review	20 Mar 2014
PECK					
CONFIDENT	IAL				
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